GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:267
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
RISE OF POLIO CASES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of polio patients have increased in various parts of the country, particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, despite Polio eradication programme;

(b) if so, the details of the polio cases detected during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefore;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the amount allocated and released by the Government and other agencies for Polio eradication in each State during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise; and

(f) the effective measures taken by the Government for eradication of polio in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) During 2007 there has been a sharp reduction in Polio Type 1 cases in the country. Polio Type 1 cases have not been reported from the endemic districts of Western Uttar Pradesh for more than one year . Polio Type 1 circulation in Bihar is also restricted to a small proportion of blocks that have operational difficulties that got worse during the floods. The shift in vaccination strategy i.e to focus on Polio Type 1 elimination first by using monovalent oral polio vaccine 1 (mOPV1), has led to resurgence of P3 in Uttar Pradesh which has spread to adjoining areas and reintroduced into Bihar.
Number of polio cases detected during last three years and current year is annexed (Annexure I).

(c) & (d) ICMR is undertaking two studies to determine prevalence of polio virus antibodies in children of Moradabad district and to determine prevalence of polio virus antibodies in non- polio AFP cases in children upto 5 years of age in 24 districts of Western Uttar Pradesh in co-ordination with Government of Uttar Pradesh and National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP).
To determine the prevalence of polio virus antibodies in children of Moradabad districts, 900 Sera samples of the study population have been collected and was received by Entrovirus Research Centre (ERC), Mumbai on 30th November, 2007. ERC Mumbai is testing the samples .

(e) The details of the amount allocated and released to States during the last three years and current year is annexed (Annexure II)

(f) Measures taken by the Government for achieving eradication of polio in the country are as under : -
Monovalent oral polio vaccines (mOPV1 and mOPV3) are being used in the high risk districts and States to enhance immunity against Polio Type 1 and Polio Type 3 virus.
Mopping up immunization is being carried out in response to the detection of Wild polio virus in other parts of the country.
Migratory populations from UP and Bihar are being identified in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and these migratory children are being covered during the SNID in UP and Bihar starting from August, 2007.
State Political Leadership and Administration are continuously being updated on the identified gaps in the implementation of the Program, they in-turn are constantly monitoring the progress with the District Administration. The District Magistrates are taking corrective action through the District Task Force formed to accelerator the program implementation.
In the States of UP and Bihar every new born child is being identified and vaccinated during the polio immunization campaigns and is being tracked for 8 subsequent rounds.
In order to reach every eligible child during the pulse polio round, apart from the strategy of vaccinating children at fixed booths and house to house visit, efforts in vaccinating children in transit at railway stations, inside long distance trains, major bus stops, market places, religious congregations, major road crossings etc. through out the country have been intensified.
To ensure vaccination of missed children, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) are involved and they mobilize the missed children on the monthly health day session and vaccinate them. # Efforts are being continually intensified to remove the misconception and rumors among certain section of the community about the use of Oral Polio Vaccine. # Strategy to involve the leaders and opinion makers of the underserved community is being adopted in Western Uttar Pradesh districts.